

Sharing Our Story...

Bramhall Baptist Church



Bramhall Baptist Church is located (as the name suggests!) in the suburb of Bramhall, in the borough of Stockport, Greater Manchester. Bramhall is one of the more affluent parts of South Manchester, where 'there is a foot in the traditional and in the contemporary', a village centre and a number of community activities and traditions. One of these is the annual 'Duck Race' of Bramhall, and here, Phil Dixon, who leads Bramhall Baptist Church, explains how the church sought to use this event to engage with the local community.

"Each year in Bramhall Park, the Rotary Club hold a big fundraising event called, 'The Duck Race' and, yes, ducks are raced! Plastic ducks sponsored by local businesses and organisations with each individually customised by their race team. Around the duck races, there are a host of other activities and stalls. Several thousand people attend the event and this year the Churches of Bramhall came together and were present as a group. We had a large gazebo, next to the ferret racing (!), which hosted various activities, games such as splat the rat, story time for children, a prayer tree and a number of other activities.

At Bramhall Baptist Church, we moved our service from the morning to 5pm which enabled us to be where the people were on this Sunday. Through doing this, we reminded ourselves that we are to go to people, not just to wait for people to come to us but we were also able to meet people, talk to people, including our M.P. and to pray for people.

At 5pm, we gathered back at the church and celebrated Pentecost with a baptismal service in which three adults were baptised and we followed that by eating together. It was a blessed day of outreach, worship and fellowship. As someone commented, 'we felt like a family.'

Reflective Questions: What are the 'big community events' in your area, and how could you and your church engage in these with the good news of Jesus?

How open are you personally and as a church to 'moving what you currently do' in order to reach those who aren't yet part of the church community?

Home Mission: Supporting, equipping and enabling churches in God's Mission

